

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS

REF: A) STATE 138119

B) USNATO 3597

C) USNATO 3262

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING JULY 2 WG MEETING, STAFF GROUP PREPARED REVISED DRAFT PAPER ON DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT U.S. REF A COMMENTS. PAPER WAS DISCUSSED AT JULY 16 WG MEETING, DURING WHICH ALL ALLIES SAID THEY COULD ACCEPT PAPER, BUT U.S. REP RESERVED PENDING INSTRUCTIONS. CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUBJECT OF TRAINING AREAS COULD BE MOVED OUT OF TECHNICAL LEVEL SINCE NO FURTHER PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD IN WG FORUM.

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS, AND IF POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF NEW PAPER IN TIME FOR JULY 30 WG MEETING.

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END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 2 WG MEETING, LITTLE TIME WAS AVAILABLE FOR ALLIES TO TAKE UP DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF REF A GUIDANCE AND UK

PROPOSED REDRAFT OF WG PAPER ON GROUND TRAINING AREAS (TEXT REF B). IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME, CHAIRMAN (SMITH) ASKED WHETHER U.S. REP COULD CIRCULATE HIS INSTRUCTIONS AND THUS ENABLE STAFF GROUP TO BLEND UK APPROACH WITH U.S. COMMENTS INTO NEW DRAFT REPORT. PURSUING APPROACH IN PARA 3 OF REF B, U.S. REP AGREED TO CIRCULATE COMMENTS. FRG REP (DZIALAS) SAID HE COULD GO ALONG WITH IDEA OF NEW DRAFT AS LONG AS IT WOULD NOT PREJUDICE GERMAN POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO INCLUDING AREAS LOCATED ONLY IN FRG. NEW DRAFT SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO REFLECT DISAGREEMENT WITH U.S. VIEW THAT THE SOVIETS COULD LIST AS MANY TRAINING AREAS AS THEY WISHED, POINT IN PARA 4 (E) OF REF A NOT WITHSTANDING, ON WHICH U.S. REP DREW IN REPLY. GENERAL VIEW PREVAILED THAT UK TEXT APPEARED TO BE A MORE CONCISE APPROACH TO PROBLEM THAN EARLIER STAFF GROUP DRAFT (TRANSMITTED IN REF C).

2. DURING WEEK OF JULY 8, STAFF GROUP PRODUCED A NEW DRAFT (AC/276-WP(74)6(4TH REVISED))-POUCHED), WHICH RELIES LARGELY ON UK TEXT BUT INCORPORATES U.S. COMMENTS WHERE RELEVANT.

3. NEW PAPER WAS DISCUSSED DURING JULY 16 WG MEETING. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT NEW TEXT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT U.S.-FRG AND UK DESIDERATA BUT WITHOUT PREJUDICING ANY ONE'S POSITION (ESPECIALLY FRG'S) AS TO A FINAL DECISION, WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE FOR POLITICAL AUTHORITIES TO MAKE IN SPC. PAPER SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A NEUTRAL ANALYSIS IN WHICH THE ALTERNATIVES ON A RELATIVELY COMPLEX SUBJECT ARE AS CLEARLY SET FORTH AS POSSIBLE. FURTHER WORK WOULD THEREFORE NOT SEEM PRODUCTIVE AT WG'S TECHNICAL LEVEL.

4. DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED AROUND FRG REP'S OBJECTION TO LISTING SOLTAU-LUNEBURG AS A TRAINING AREA IN ANNEX A TO NEW DRAFT. UK REP INSISTED THAT THIS WAS UK'S PRINCIPAL TRAINING AREA IN FRG, AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE LISTED. FRG REP COUNTERED THAT SUCH AN AREA WAS ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS LISTED: SOLTAU-LUNEBURG WAS A BROAD GEOGRAPHIC AREA NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO TRAINING PER SE; PEOPLE
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LIVE AND WORK IN AREA CONTINUOUSLY; NO LIVE FIRING IS UNDERTAKEN AT ANY TIME; THERE IS NO MILITARY COMMAND CENTER LOCATED IN OR NEAR IT. AFTER FURTHER INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEM WAS A SIDE ISSUE AND COULD BE RESOLVED IF UK AND FRG GOT TOGETHER TO DEFINE THE AREA MORE PRECISELY. UK AND FRG REPS AGREED TO THIS APPROACH.

5. FRG REP THEN SAID HE COULD ACCEPT PAPER WITHIN CONTEXT OF CHAIRMAN'S EXPLANATION IN PARA 3 ABOVE, AND WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT SPC WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS THE BASIC QUESTION IN DUE COURSE. IN SUBSEQUENT TOUR DE TABLE OTHER ALLIES SAID THEY COULD ALSO ACCEPT NEW PAPER. U.S. REP SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE UNTIL WASHINGTON HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY

TO REVIEW NEW DRAFT. AT CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST, U.S. REP SAID HE WOULD REPORT BACK THAT OTHER ALLIES COULD NOW ACCEPT A WG TECHNICAL PAPER ON DEFINED GROUND TRAINING AREAS, THAT NO FURTHER WORK AT TECHNICAL LEVEL WOULD APPEAR TO IMPROVE INSIGHTS INTO PROBLEM, AND THAT UNDERLYING POLITICAL ISSUE WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED IN SPC.

6. COMMENT: STAFF GROUP HAS OBVIOUS FEELING THAT WG CAN GO NO FURTHER WITH SUBJECT, AND IS EAGER TO REPORT AN AGREED OUT OF COMMITTEE AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY. UNLESS WASHINGTON HAS FURTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH PAPER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT AND THEREBY DISPOSE OF GROUND TRAINING AREA ISSUE AT NATO TECHNICAL LEVEL. IF WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO WISH TO DEFER RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL QUESTION FOR THE PRESENT, WE WOULD THEN USE PARA 2 GUIDANCE IN REF A EITHER IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS OR IN SPC IF ITEM IS INCLUDED ON LATTER'S AGENDA.

7. ONLY BRACKET IN TEXT IS U.S., WHICH APPERAS AT END OF PARA 5 OF NEW DRAFT, AND WAS APPLIED AS A RESULT OF FRG'S JULY 2 POSITION NOTED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. QUESTION HAS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN FRG'S VIEW, AND THEREFORE MUST BE RESOLVED AT SPC LEVEL. ONLY OTHER BRACKET IN PAPER IS AROUND SOLTAU-LUNEBURG IN ANNEXES A AND D FOR REASONS NOTED IN PARA 4 ABOVE. IT SHOULD DISAPPEAR AS SOON AS FRG AND UK CAN RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEM OF DEFINING THE AREA IN QUESTION. ALSO WORTH NOTING IS INCLUSION, AT DUTCH REP'S REQUEST OF TWO NEW TRRAINING AREAS UNDER PARA (C) IN ANNEX A OF NEW DRAFT, AND ELIMINATION
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OF AN EARLIER ONE DESIGNATED AS DEN HELDER. SEVERAL MINOR CORRECTIONS ON COORDINATES AND SIZE OF AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN INCLUDED IN NEW DRAFT. END COMMENT
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